A RICHMOND DISASTER.

Burning of the Spotswood Hotel.

A DREADFUL CHRISTMAS GREETING.

Seven Lives Lost and Many Persons Missing.

Another Horror Shrouding the City of Disasters in Gloom.

INCIDENTS OF THE FIRE.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE HERALD.

RICHMOND, Dec. 25, 1870. Not a year has passed since-swiftly, suddenly and without a shadow of premonition-this city was plunged into a depth of gloom almost without a parallel in the annals of any city on this Continent by the falling in of the floor of the Court of Appeals in the Capitol building. Since then flood has spread desolation throughout the State to add to the list of horrors that have marked the last decade in this beautiful land, and now I have to chronicle a calamity which, coming at the time it does, makes us feer that it is written by the fates, "City of the Seven Hills, then art doomed."

THE DEMON OF PIRE has again ravished it and added to the destruction of property and loss of life. Desolation, destruction, come hand in hand with the Ice King. Last night-Christmas Eve, which never, even in the dark days of our civil strife, was aught but a time of merry-making and rejorcing throughout the Old Dominion-found nearly every house in the city the scene of festivity. Christ-mas morning found the cypress where the holly had been the night before. At half-past two o'clock A. M. a canopy of fire hung over the whole city. In one short hour, certainly, five if not more souls were, not huried, but dragged slowly into eternity, through the most horriple death-gates known to humanity. Only Dance, in his wildest flights of poetic could have depicted one-half the ho. rors of

THE BURNING OF THE SPOTSWOOD HOTEL Not since the burning of the old theatre has Richmond witnessed such a scene,

Built without any brick partitions above the first floor, the flames having once gotten a headway, any attempt to check them was worse than futile. In a few minutes after the fire was discovered by the watchman, who happened to pass the pantry where a stove had been negligently allowed to burn, and which, becoming red hot, communicated to the floor, it had crushed with lightning speed from cellar to garret, and by the time Fire Department had become thoroughly ganized for work the whole interior structure was one sheet living flame-mad, wild, his ing flame-in its resistless, desolating sweep, hurling athwart the frosty sky masses of burning timber, like some volcanic demon laboring to digorge itself-now silent, as if to gather new strength; now roaring, crackling, thundering, as if striving to drown THE SHRIEES OF ITS VICTIMS.

the hoarse, confused cries of the firemen, the shrill whistles of the engines and the agonizing hum of the swaying crowd of citizens below ready to do and die in the cause of humanity, but powerless. Here is a mother barefooted on the frozen streets. and just as the cry of fire had startled her from her siumbers raises that most agonizing of cries,

"SAVE MY CHILDREN!" here a brother looking frantically for a sister, or a wife pleading for some tidings of her husband, who when last seen was braving fire and smoke to ror and fear; beside him another, whose gallant spirit knows not the meaning of the latter word, and who, having saved one friend, is preparing to rush again into the jaws of death to rescue another. Here is young

who has just brought two friends from the fourth story out and rushes back for a third, who is seen at the window of his room from the street below; but now the stairway is in fiames. Only one chance remains; it is to jump. He prepares for the fearing lean. Brave hearts will catch him, if he crushes them. of black, stiffing smoke envelops him; angry, forked flames leap like serpents' tongues from without the mass, and his gallant soul is in eternity.

Creeping, writhing, hissing during the lulls of the winter's blast-rushing as it springs fresh from its lair-the demon finally seizes upon two large buildings adjoining the hotel. Then the scene, if possible, becomes more fearful than before, mingling as it does the failing of walls and the crashing of the floors with the other

HORRORS OF THE SCENE. At one time it appeared as if the destruction of the whole block was inevitable. The night was the severest of this winter, the spray from the streams failing in hall upon the half-dressed inmates of the hotel, as they stood watching the means of egress from the building, to see if the next that rushed out was a brother, sister, husband, wife, son or daughter, or to give a word of encouragement to some one poised between two horrible forms of death and powerless, except to cry out above the din below "SAVE ME! I AM BURNING !"

This heartrending appeal rang out from more than fifty windows, and rang out only once. It is not known positively that there were more than five actual victims of the fiames, but the universal fear is that this does not approximate the number One short hour and the fire flend had done its worst. Its progress had been stayed, but two-thirds of the fronting Main street and running back nearly the same distance was a flery charnel lake, still smoking and seething, but conquered.

THE PIRE PIRST BROKE OUT. and the wild cry rang through the house, repeated from mouth to mouth with frantic and despairing energy, your correspondent, whose room was in the left wing of the building, in the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen rushing, they knew not whither, and shricking with despair. Proceeding further to the head of a staircase all egress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building another staircase was reached which brought one to the second floor, and here the long corridors but served as Ines to conduct the flame through the building. Continuing on, the ground floor is reached at last, and then the cold, lev air strikes the face. A PITEOUS SCENE.

Here I saw the wife of Captain McPhail in her bare feet, with a blanket wrapped around her, while her husband, half dressed, carried their infant child, whose piteous cries could be neard above the din of the falling timbers and crashing floors. But

worthy of mention. A young man named Towers sprang forward, pulled off his shoes and gave them to the lady, and, divesting himself of his overcoat wrapped the child in it and carried it a distance of several squares to the house of a friend of McPhail's.

Again there was another cry, "A MAN AT A FIFTH STORY WINDOW!" l looked up, and there was C. A. Schaffter, the State Superintendent of Public Printing, clinging to the sill of a fifth story window. His feet reach the upper rew of glass in the fourth story window, and he kicks out the panes. He places his feet on the sash, moves his hands cautiously to the cap of the window and then descends to the sill of that window. In this way the gallant Schaffter came from story to story amid the plaudits of the crowd. by whom he was seized and carried out of danger

when he reached the ground. AMONG THE VICTIMS is Mrs. Kernsly, the housekeeper of the hotel. In

vain was sne urged by the proprietor, Mr. Luck, to escape; but she wanted her trunk. This she got, but then she wanted to save something else, and at last all the avenues of escape were cut off and she was swallowed up by the devouring element. Besides this lady and Hines among the known victims are Erasmus Ress, famous as clerk of the Libby Prison during the war, Samuel Robinson, of New Orleans, cigar vender, and H. A. Thomas, agent of the panorama of Bunyan's Pilgrims Progress; W. H. Pau, of Danville, Va., United Sates mall agent, and J. B. Fariss, messenger of the Southern Express Com-pany. A number of strangers on the register are missing, some of whom may have gone off on the morning train.

THE FOLLOWING NAMES.

however, appear on the register who are not believed

Samuel Friedman and Henry Kroeth, New York. D. N. Cannergore, of Cincinnati; C. George and E. H. Andrews, of Syracuse, N. Y.; J. H. Wilcox, of Lynchburg: N. Beimstem, of Washington: A. Leil, of Tampa, Fia.; H. G. Krotte, of New York, and

John H. Holman, Jr., of Jackson, Tenn. W. H. H. Stowell, Congressman elect from the Fourth district, was registered and is also missing. The Spotswood Hotel was valued at \$140,000, and insured in Northern companies, represented by D. N. Walker, for \$60,000. M ssrs, Branch & Current were insured in the North British and Mercantile for \$5,000. Messrs. Sublett, Luck & Co., proprietors of the Spotswood, had their furniture insured for \$20,000, and their wines and carpets for \$7,000, in

the North British Company.

The National Insurance Company, of Bultimore. loses \$8,000, and the Continental, of New York, \$3,000. All the goods ready for delivery in the cellar of the Southern Express Company were destroved. The company's money safes are buried in the ruins.

Among those who had very narrow escapes were M. Maillefert, of New York, engineer of the James river obstructions; S. A. Pearce, of Columbia, S. C., private secretary to Senator Sprague, and Mrs. E. Magill, proprietress of the theatre. The De Lave Troupe lost their baggage. The hotel register was found to-night, and there are only six strangers not accounted for. It is probable some of the citizens have taken some of them to their houses. The name of the housekeeper burned was Mrs. Emily Kennearty.

The business houses destroyed were Messrs. Branch & Currant's crockery store, Adams' Express Company's office, howes' machine store and other smaller stores.

The sun that went down last night upon the happy anticipations of all classes of citizens rose with a glory seldom equalled but to flash back from the icicles that hung from

THE BLEAK RUINS all the grandeur of myriad rainbows like death and lestruction decked in diamonds. It is impossible to gather anything like a full statement of the inci-dents of this last catastrophe, or to depict its hor-rors to-day. It is as if another funeral pall had been spread over the entire community.

A MIRACLE PLAY.

Brilliant Success of "The Christ Child's Feast," Last Night, at the Grand Opera

The "miracle play" forms one of the few bright gleams of poetry that illumined the mediaval ages, and many modern poets and essayists (notably Longfellow in "the Golden Legend") have attempted, not without success, to bring home to us the strangely quaint charm that still clings to it in the memory of scholars. It had, however, two grave and even conspicuous faults-coarseness and blasphemy. With these few words of introduction we bring to the notice of our readers the interesting entertainment at the Grand Opera House last evening, under the auspices of the Sodality of St. Paul's Church. Although announced simply as a Kinderfeste, or Christ-child's feast, it revived all the more pleasing features of the old miracle play, while it carefully avoided its grosser blemishes. There was the same curious mingling of saints and school children and angels and Mary and Joseph, and the snepherds of Bethlehem; the same splendid display of rich colored dresses; the same tone of child-like belief in the absolute power of mother Church, and the unquestionable reality of her traditions and legends. No more charming or appropriate mode of worthly celebrating a Christinas Sunday evening could have been devised. The play opened with a tableau of school children, the boys dressed in the unitorm of the Sodality and the girls in plain white muslin. In the centre were a boy with a ree cape fringed with gold, and a griftof larger growth (the queen of the feast) with a wand of authority, while the side groups were relieved by two maidens bearing the green flag of Erm and our own dear many-starred banner. After several glees, hymning the praises of this joyous festival, had been rendered with a singularly pleasing effect by the fresh voices of the children, the good Santa Klaus kimself appeared upon the scene, vested in his snow-spangiel robe and fur cap, and bearing in one hand a bundle of switches and in the order children according to the the contract of the tester of the children of the contract of the children of the contract of the contract of the children of the contract of miracle play, while it carefully avoided its grosser and bearing in one hand a bundle of switches and in the other a bag of goodies to reward the evil and the good children according to their deeds of the past year. The next part exhibited the spisode of the shepherds and the announcement of the birth of the Messiah by the heavenly messengers, with a yiew in the background of the stable—not a grotto. view in the background of the stable—not a grotto, but a realistic stable with a realistic manager—in which the Saviour of mankind first "took upon him our flesh." The closing tableau consisted of scenes around the Christmas tree, three of which were stripped to fill the hearts of the youth-nul players with harmless pleasure. The play concluded by speeches of thanks to the givers of the entertainment and a chorus of praise te Him whose hand is ever opened to minister to the wants of His creatures.

hand is ever opened to infinister to the wants of the creatures.

The entertainment could scarcely have been better managed, if the want of punctuality in beginning at the advertised time be excepted, and reflected the greatest credit on all concerned in its broduction. The singing was excellent, the orchestra well trained, the dresses and appointments splendid and yet tasteful. Indeed, the whole affair was so britant a success that there can be little doubt that every Christmas henceforth a Christ-child's feast will be one of the most charming features of the New York celebration of the festival.

PICKING POCKETS IN CHURCH.

In the bright, crisp morning air of yesterday Maria Scheppler, of 183 East Houston street, sallied away to the German Catholic church in Third street to at tend the Christmas mass. The church was crowded. In the pew where Maria knelt knelt also Augustus Crawford, who seemed to be full of the spirit of the occasion, saying his orisons with apparently the most pous, devotion. When the holy service was about over and the congregation began to leave the church Mrs. Scheppler observed Augustus putting his hand into her dress pocket and drawing out her wallet. Distiking to make any alarm in church she waited till the thie: got outside, when she accused him of robbing her. The fellow immediately darted of, but was pursued and brought to bay by a police officer before he had run many blocks. Yesterday Crawford was taken before Justice Scott at the Essex Market Police Court and held to answer. Crawford, who seemed to be full of the spirit of

A GERMAN VICTORY IN HOBOKEN.

The district of Roboken known as Shippenville was alarmed at one o'clock yesterday morning with the vells of two belligerent individuals, named John Anderson and Henry Miltop. The men had a dis-Anderson and Henry Miltop. The men had a dispute about the Franco-Prussian war, which, however, was confined to words, till John offered to bet twenty dollars that not more than one-fourth the present German army in France would ever recross the Rhine. Hereupon a desperate encounter took place, the result of which was that John's physiognomy was battered out of its former shape, though he showed pluck to the last. The fight was ended by the intervention of a crowd of persons, who had agreed to remain neutral so long as firearms or weapons were not employed.

A CHILD IN FLAMES.

A melancholy accident occurred yesterday afteroon about two o'clock in Jersey City. A little girl named Julia Barrett, seven years of age, was with her mother visiting some friends at No. 110 Morgan street. At a moment when no person was near the child her clothes caught fire from the stove and she cannot not clothes caught. The from the stove and she ran out of the door enveloped in flames. One of the immates of the house came to the rescue, but in the eagerness to grasp the child the latter tumbled sown a flight of stairs. Finally, when the flames were extinguished, the poor child was so fearfully roasted that her condition is hopeless. She was taken to her residence, No. 19 Prospect street.

RUM AND STEEL IN BROOKLYN

Shortly after five o'clock last evening two young men-Joseph Shandley and Thomas McGlynn-both of whom were under the influence of liquor, quarrelled while standing on the corner of Hudson avenue and Plymouth street. The wrangle ended in nne and Plymouth street. The wrangle ended in a sanguinary manner by Shandley drawing a knife and stabbling his antagonist in the back, just beneath the left snoulder blade. He then took to his heels. Subsequently officer McCartoy, of the Second precinct police, discovered the whereabouts of the fugitive and took him to the station house in York street, where he is held for examination. The wound is not considered fatal.

UNIFICATION OF AMERICA

The Proposed Annexation of Canada to the United States.

Correspondence Between the Canadian Patriot Papineau and the Canadian Union Club, of New York.

The subjoined highly important and interesting correspondence between the Canadian Union Club, of this city, and the celeorated agitator and publicist, Louis Joseph Papineau, is another indication of the tide that is gradually but surely setting in toward the fulfilment of ardent anticipations entertained upon both sides of the border that separates us from the British possessions in North America. It is full of matter for reflection, and is peculiarly werthy of note at a moment when the condition of political affairs in the Old World seems to be preparing the way for many great changes in the

SKETCH OF PAPINEAU. Louis Joseph Papinean, now in his eighty-sixth year, entered Parliament at the age of twenty-two, and was Speaker of the House of Assembly of Lower Canada from 1814 to 1837, when the insurrection broke out. A price was set upon his head, when he took refuge in the United States. He returned to Canada in 1847 and took a prominent place in Canadian politics. His love for constitutional liberty and his hatred of English rule are as strong to-day as ever. Although retired from public life his influence on public opinion is still powerful with the radical party.

radical party.

LETTER OF PROFESSOR G. BATCHELOR TO L. J. PAPINEAU.

NEW YORK, Nov. 23, 1870.

HONOHABLE AND HONORED SIR—The Canadians of New York have just founded a political association under the name of the "Canadian Union Club," with the object of promoting the "union of Canada with the United States."

I send you the circulars and resolutions published by the cith, accompanied by a pamphiet on the unification of North America, which has supplied the broad foundations of our programme. Conscious of the lively interest you always take in the emanchation of our native country, I thought you would be gind to learn what we propose to do to effect this desirable consummation.

canancipation of our native country, I thought you would be glad to learn what we propose to do to effect this desirable consummation.

You would be received among our people with the greatest enthusiasm. It is to the expression of this grateful sentiment that I owe the pleasure of inviting you to come and encourage, with your manly specifies, our metipient society, at the third monthly meeting on the 16th becember next. It, as it is to be feared, circumstances keep you chained to the flouse, we should be happy to receive, in neu of this forced absence, one of those instructive letters for which you hold a patent.

The American people, who are rested from their gigantic struggle with secession, are going to resume, at the point where it had been left, their historic mission of continental reconstruction. They need torenes to ligaten their way into the countries not forming part as yet of their domain. You can elequently supply that need.

Now, a paragraph about our own association. The founders of the Camadian Union Club said to themselves, "Annexation is a process, union is a result." In the eyes of many people annexation implies the absolute absorption of the weaker Canada, by the strenger, the United States carried out through some kind of violence—an idea that wounds our national pride. Let us, then, adopt the conciliating titles of Union and Unionist. It will make our people understand the better that by throwing aside colonial thraldom they may enter the American Union on an equal fosting with the other States and not as a conquered people.

not as a conquered people.

Please accept my patriotic greetings,
GEORGE BATCHELOR,
Secretary of the Canadian Union Club of New York.
648 BROADWAY, St. Charles Hotel.

LETTER OF THE HON, LOUIS JOSEPH PAPINEAU ON THE POLITICAL CONSTITUTION OF CANADA. In answer to an invitation of Professor George Batchelor, secretary of the "Club Unioniste Cana dien de New York," the Hon. L. J. Papineau, for forty years the popular leader of Lower Canada, has written the following important letter, translated from the original, in French, expressly for the

HERALD:— MONTREAL, Dec. 11, 1870.

GENTLEMEN OF THE CANADIAN UNION CLUB—I appland with all my heart my dear compatriots of New York, volontary exiles, because they could not endure the shames and injustice which the foreign master and his mercenary followers, born on the soil but traitors to their country, daily indict upon her. I also appland the holy inspirations of your grateful hearts, of your ardent patriotism, of your passionate love for human dignity and freedom, as well as for the emancipation of our dear country at the earliest date.

On the 12th of October last you assembled in Masonic Hall for two great, legitimate, virtuous mani-

On the 12th of October last you assembled in Ma-sonic Hall for two great, legitimate, virtuous mani-lestations—that of your veneration for genius and that of your devotion for your country; for honor-ing the name, gr.c. among all, of Columbus, and contriving the best means for sweeping away from the American Confinent colonial vassalage. If you invite me again for the celebration of this glorious anniversary I will undoubtedly carry there my full stephy-six years.

anniversary I will undendedly carry there my full eighty-six years.

It was a very good thought to establish a Canadian Union Club in New York. I associate myself with you and all others who shall openly protest against the degraded position made us by the British Parliament. It has become a portion of the public law of the European Continent, moralized by the enlight-eurnent and the pointical philosophy of the minited that the century that men living in society have makenable rights inherent to their autonomy, and that the latter cannot be attered without their consent freely exercised. Two despotsions more brutai than the others, that of Prussia and that of British toryism, have alone remained strangers to these principles of justice.

despetisions more bratai than the others, that of Prussia and that of British toryism, have alone remained strangers to these principles of justice. They have disposed of the men of Holstein and of British Continental America, respectively, as of things without rights and without soms, having nothing to say concerning the disposition water their absolute masters might make of them. Beyond these two odious exceptions, no changes in the constitutions or dominions in Europe have been considered moral, legitimate and ooligatory unless ratued by the interested parties in conventions or constituent assembles elected for that purpose or by plebiscitums. Victory can ask for these changes and diplomacy acquiesce in them, alone can universal suffrage moralize and make them valid. That is the quine right of the intereenth century, divine since it is just and is derived from the free choice of men to whom reason and conscience have been given to conduce them to happiness.

The confederation of the British provinces was passed when, for the last time I hope and believe, the old foryish aristocracy was dominant. It was passed when, for the last time I hope and believe, the old foryish aristocracy was dominant. It was passed when for the languishing ancient colonial system; that is to say, multiplicity of places, sinecures and pensions for the immions of the nobility, and in favor of commercial monopoly, for the maintenance and extension of which England has made all her wars and shed, by its armies, but much more by its subsidies, more humab blood since two centuries than all other causes or pretexts of war have ever done. It was passed principally with another object, the mest culpable of all—that of setting a few thousands of weak colonials, spread over spaces too ast to be defended on any single point against the innumerable battalions of the most progressive among all the Powers of the establishment of an inter-colonial raliway. It is true, they confess, that for fifty years and more it will not pay expenses;

passions which have deranged the brains of the promoters of that belincose Confederation. To preserve it until a difficulty with the United States should occur they vote millions for the establishment of an inter-colonial railway. It is true, they confess, that for fifty years and more it will not pay expenses; but no matter; it would enable England to send a limited number of troops in winter from Hailiax, provided an avalanche of Yankee soldiers would not gobble them on their way to Quebec. Still other millions are more foolishly spent in fortifications to shelter the defenders of the country. What could a small army, such as could be raised here, do against those who could raise in a short time, armed and disciplined, twelve hundred thousand combatants.

In case of war the Canadian Carnot, without the genius of the patriotism of his prototype, will organize victory to defend with his five hundred thousand militianmen, in the plains of Canada, the interests of his dear old England. It was for laving vociferated such an atrocious impertmence that he was found worthy of climbing the footsteps of the august hierarchy of British baronets or knights, I do not know which. Such were the means of making a leviume I have seen succeed for long years of a pannful political file, during which Downing street and their official valets in canada soil the annals of the country as they are to-day soiled by the Ministers of the British North American confederation.

Everything has turned for the better in England and all for the worse in her dependencies on this continent. There toryism has been driven away from power; here it is more and more domineering, insolent, corrupting, plundering, costly, dissipating, without morals or self-respect. Here also it is about tumbing down. The Gladstone administration must conceive nothing but contempt against marphots and bullies who daily insult the United States through their mirelings of the press, and by laws hostic to American micrests provoking measures of retaliation, already odici

than to Canada, and emigrants there become rich in one-tenth the time necessary to acquire a little wealth in our severe climes. They become more useful consumers of English industrial products, and, in spite of all these advantages, England tells them: We do not want you any further as colonists. In forming your Union Club, having for its special object to bring about as soon as possible the union of Canada with the United States, you cannot fail to second the elevated and judicious views of the statesmen who now govern England. If among the selfish rulers who form the cabinet of Ottowa there was the shadow of a true statesman, having at heart the public welfare, of high initelligence, of a moral and powerful authority, acquired by a long public life entirely upright, what numberless advantages he would procure for Canada!

You truly said that all the countries bordering upon the territory of the central nation of America are manifestly destined to enter its vast and prosperous orbit. The time has come for a new order of things. We are going to oe associated at last to the model nation, the institutions of which assure to all those who may adopt them liberty, peace, order, education and the virtues flewing from them; protection accorded teall religious denominations by public toleration and the separation of Church and State, love of labor, contempt for idleness, and general welfare and contentment, better than it has ever been accomplished at any time before and by any other nation.

Let us repeat unceasingly that after the happy realization of our heartfelt aspirations for annexation

ever been accomplished at any time before and by any other nation.

Let us repeat unceasingly that after the happy realization of our heartfelt aspirations for amexation to the American confederation, which cannot have subjects, but only citizen-brothers, more than nine-tenths of the fotifications fall, from the shores of the Newfoundland to the Pacific; that their murderous walls may be converted into beneficial schools, and their destructive soldiers into industrious producers; that the legion of custom house officers and smugglers equally injurious to the interests of honest trade are discensed with and better employed in the fields and manufactories.

Let us state shat, between Montreal and Kingston, there are more water powers than in all the New England States; that our water powers are rendered useless because we are colonists who are not allowed to compete with English producers; that the British capitalists have gone to the United States instead of Canada, because the superiority of American institutions guarantees profitable remuneration for investments, and that the inferiority and instability of our institutions, so frequently altered without our consent insure disturs and do not afford

for investments, and that the interiority and hasta-bility of our institutions, so frequently altered with-out our consent, inspire distrust and do not afford out our consent, inspire distrust and do not afford the same security to European capitalists.

The free exchange of products between Baffin Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, between the Western and Eastern extremity of the North American Continent, expels all danger of war; creates every day new riches, and for their rapid and economical distribution covers all those immense regions with an uninterrupted network of canals and railroads; that those innumerable advantages and a thousand others are interdicted to us by our separation; that they would spring up and multiply through annexation. Oh, what a fruitful marriage it would be! May God grant it to us!

With esteem, your associate,

L. J. PAPINEAU.

To Prof. George Batchelor, Secretary Canadian Union Club of New York.

SAVIOURS OLDER THAN CHRIST.

A Christmas Review of Christianity and a Superb Solo-Rich, Rare and Racy Reminiscences of Religion-Discourse by Rev. O. B. Frothingham.

Lyric Hall is densely crowded on each Sunday of the season to listen to the eloquent sermon of the favorite interpreter of Jesus of Nazareth who preached to the poor. Preaching without notes, logical, eriginal, and at times startling-as sublime truths often are-this divine attracts to the foot of his rostrum the intellectual and liberal classes of the people. Each week he presents in new garments and in faultiess symmetry of form some old and well-known truth. With a spice of faith he mixes ancient mysteries and modern scientific discoveries, and evolves from them living, breathing tenets, only the more fascinating from the elegance of his delivery and the beauty of his diction. terday the throng was dense in the large hall, and every chair was brought into service in the roon adjoining.

The services began with the Gloria from Farmer's Mass, and before the benediction Miss Gibbs, the beautiful and thoroughly trained soprano, of whom the congregation is so proud, sang the selo from Handol's Messnah, "Come Unto Him." At the conclusion of this piece there was an almost irresistible tendency among the hearers to applaud. The hymn, "Lowth," from Greatorex's collection, was given by the full quartette (Mrs. Gardner, Miss Gibbs, Mr. Hawes and Mr. Clapp), and a secend solo was sung by Miss Gibbs—the "Christmas Morn," by Gounod. Mr. Frothingham began his sermon without a text, and reviewed religion and science from the "reign of Ahramanes" to the coming of John Tyndail. He said:—When the man of the world, wearied by the ceaseless battle and the many wrongs and crimes of life, returns to view the cot where he was born, and beholds, perhaps,

THE LITTLE BED in which he lay as an innocent child, he feels the same sentiment of sorrow which Christians should experience on Christians Day. When the memory of Galitee comes to us in the midst of our present life we should all feel something of dissatisfaction at the course Christianity has pursued, and regret the lost innocence and purity of its character. Christianity went forth in the world and found a home. To the immediate followers of Christ Heaven was so Large that its doers were open for all the human race to enter, and a simple faith saw all the children formbeautiful and thoroughly trained soprano, of whom

ing an inner circle about the Great Father. Cl tainty since those early days of hope and joy become wearled and faded and old through its tainty since those early days of hope and joy has become wearled and faded and old through its centuries of war and trial. To-day one-half the Christian world bows before the holmess of God and the other half before the holmess of Plo Nono. Christianity no longer dwells in the stable, no longer finds its supreme type in the purity and joy of the little one. It wanders in distant lands, carrying new idols to the idolaters, and only less idols than those it replaces. The Christian Church is rich and powerful now; it worships in magnificent cathedrals and is followed by a magnificent train singing grand psaims. Christianity does not in our time breather much of the manger. That numble place is aimost forgotten. One searches for religion in our day at the hands of the doctors, and does not search his own soul to find there the simple child and

THE GRAND FAITH.

We carry Christianity to the Eastern World and tell them the story of our religion as new. Ah | my triends, centuries since, when men followed Zoroaster in the East; when with mighty thought they conquered haws the existence of which we have just learn of to acknowledge; when Persia, with marvellously complete philosophies and sciences, was in the broad light of non the Hebrews were shrouded in the

in the DARKNESS OF MIDNIGHT.

Christianity did not give birth to the idea of the unity of God. That idea was born from the Hebrews, and the Hebrews had struggled for centuries in their efforts to cope with and believe in this doctrine which had prevailed among a yet more Eastern people from an unknown and very remote antiquity. The immortality of the soul is not alone a Christian tenet. It was taught by countless millions "when the Jews were an ignorant and vagabond race wandering over the earth, raising their hand against every man, and every man raising his head against them." Our Man of sorrow was not the only one. Long before His birth the linearnate deities born in heaven, who came to dwell with man on earth, in sorrow and in poverty—had become a multitude in the Orient. To-day we sometimes lose sight of the fact that one nundred and seventy millions of people believe in regard to Buidha what we believe in regard to Buidha what we believe in regard to

gard to Studdha what we believe in regard to OUR CHIGHST.

They relate as many miracles; they repeat the same pure sweet truths. They tell of a God who came to them, not from the manger, but from the giory of heaven a king to put on the gard of the flowest easts of the most wretched order of people, less than the Pariah—a God who relinquished his throne in

THE KINGDOM OF THE IMMORTAL.

THE KINGDOM OF THE IMMORTAL to come among them in their poverty and to share their tears and agony. The millions of India tell us of many gods who came among them teaching immortality, self-sacrifice and love towards one another. China points us to Confucius, whom millions praise as one anterior to Christ, who taught our living faith. A million volumes and a thousand tablets in the Celestial empire attest his virtues and celebrate his fame. For untold ages dead millions have welcomed gods among men, but in Jesus of Nazarcth we behold the supreme incarnation—the Man of Sor. ow and the Rodeemer of the race.

OBITUARY.

The death of this pepular lyric actress, the anconcement of which is made this morning, will be a matter of surprise to the public, which had heard nothing of her illness. Miss Stockton, or rather Mrs. Smith, was born in Tivoli, on the Hudson, and was at the time of her death still a young woman. At an early age she gave evidences of musical talents, which were carefully cuitivated, and when she had reached the age of eighteen she made her debut in the concert room. Her reception was not as favorable as was expected and desired, and she therefore withdrew from the public and reapplied herself to the cultivation of her voice. On reappearing on the stage sne gained a decleted triumph, her vocal powers having been fully developed. From that time she met with success wherever she went. After travelling through the country with concert troupes she decided on going upon the stage as a lyric artist. Her first appearance was at the Olympic theatre in this city, where she played the part of Oberon in "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Shortly after she accepted an engagement at Niblo's, where she appeared as the Fairy Queen in the "White Fawn." Subsequently Miss Stockton went to Chicago, where, at the Opera House in that city, she played during the season, and after leaving there went with Mr. Hess' company to Philadelphia, appearing at the Chestnut was at the time of her death still a young woman.

street theatre. Her last engagement, we think, was with the Parepa-Rosa English opera troupe. In August, 1869, Mass Stockton was married in Philadelphia to a Mr. Smith, a private citizen. As an actress she was very popular, and her death will be mourned by all theatregoers as a loss to the theotical profession.

BERGH ON THE "BIT BURR."

Patrick Crowley, the agent on Staten Island of the american Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to thinghame, coachman of Mr. D. W. Lowe, for having two severe "bit burns" on his -lorses; and the parties being taken before Justice Corbet the principal, Mr. Lowe, was fined ten dollars, the Judge adding thereto a severe rebuke for the crucity of the act, and at the same time announcing his intention to severely punish all persons found offending in like manner. Animals, on Friday, the 16th instant, arrested T. Cut-

THE WEATHER IN WEST VIRCINIA.

STAUNTON, Va., Dec. 25, 1870. The weather in West Virginia and the valley of Virginia is intensely cold, the coldest experienced for many years. Mercury touched zero here at days break. At Lexington it was twenty-four degreer below freezing point. At Greenbrier, White Sciphuspinings, W. Va., it was forty degrees below freezing point, and ice is six inches thick.

METEOROLOGICAL RECORD.

Sunday, Dec. 23-11:35 P. M. WAR DEPARTMENT, I SIGNAL SERVICE, UNITED STATES ARMY,

Place of Obser-	Height of	Thermome-	Direction of the Wind.	Force of the Wind.	State of the Westilier.
	29.98	10	W.	Brisk.	Clear.
	80.15		N. W.	Gentle.	Clear.
	30.28 30.14	30	N. W.	Brisk.	Clear.
	30.39	10	W.	Brink.	Clear.
	30.48	41	s. E.	Brink.	Fair.
	20.07	10	W.	High wind.	Clear.
Cnicago	80.14	16 16 3: 30 27	w.	Very bresk.	Cloudy.
Mobile		3	3. S.	Very gentie.	Clear.
Nashville	80.47	30	8.	Very gentie.	Cloudy.
	30.35	27	S.	Gentie.	Cloudy.
	30.00		S.	Gentie.	Cloudy.
	30,01	18	8.	High wind.	Cloudy.
	30,20	17	S.	Brink.	Cloudy.
Lake City, Fia.	20.05	27	-32	Calm.	Clear.
	39.30	20	N.	Very gentle.	Clear.
Pittsburg	30.04	20	S. W.	Very brisk.	Snow.
Rochester, N.Y		25 20 20 19	S. W.	Brisk.	Cloudy.
	30.18	120	8. 8.	Gentle.	Snow.
Washington	20.44			Brisk.	Fair.
	30,44	98		Gent e.	Clear.
Boston	30.44	15		Very gentle.	Clear.

Barometer corrected for elevation and tempera-

SHIPPING NEWS

Almanac for New York-This Day.

Sun rises...... 7 23 | Moon sets.....eve 9 27 Sun sets. 4 39 | High water ... eve 11 54 OCEAN STEAMERS.

DATE OF DEPARTURES FROM NEW YORK FOR THE

Steamer.	Sails	Destination.	Office.	
City of Brook'n Pennsylvania Hansa Colorado City of Brussels	Dec 28 Dec 25 Dec 31 Dec 31 Dec 81 Dec 81 Jan 4 Jan 7 Jan 7	Glasgow Liverpool Bremen Liverpool Liverpool	129 Broadway. 7 Bowling Green 7 Bowling Green 16 Broadway. 69 Broadway. 68 Broad street. 29 Broadway. 15 Broadway. 17 Bowling Green	

PORT OF NEW YORK, DECEMBER 25, 1870.

ARRIVALS.

REPORTED BY THE HERALD STEAM YACHTS. REPORTED BY THE HERALD STEAM YACHTS.

Steamship George Washington, Gager. New Orleans Dec 17, with mide and passengers, to H B Cromwell & Co. 23d and 24th experienced a violent gale from N to NW, with intensely cold weather, causing the ship to lee up very much 24th, off Townsend's Inlet, saw a steamship ashore, and shortly after saw a wrecking steamer going to her assistance (no doubt the Aries).

Steamship Crescent City, Norton, New Orleans Dec 17, with mise and passengers, to Frederic Bazer.

Steamship Georgia, Crowell, Charleston, with midse and passengers, to Henry R Morgan & Co.

Steamship John Gibson, Winters. Georgetown, DC, 45, hours, with midse, to G B Merrick. Dec 23, off Cedar Island, Va, saw a schooner ashore, with sails loose, and appeared to have just gone on; saw two men on deck; went as close to have just gone on; saw two men on deck; went as close to have just gone on; saw two men on dexity whith the quarties of the property of the presence of the structure of the state of the contract their attention, but the persons on board made no answering stignals; the vessel was painted black, with white quarties of the property of the prop

Steamship Fanita, Doane, Fhliadelphia, with mdse, to J Lorillard.
Steamship Millville, Renear, Millville, NJ, with mdse, to Mitchouse & Tatem.
Brig Annie Jane (Br), Mullchaey, St Johns, NF, 29 days, with fish, to Bowring Brothers. Had heavy westerly gales the whole passage. Dec 18, lat 39 27, lon 62, passed brig Sharon, with foretopasil and topgullant yards gone, water-logged and abandoned.
Schr Meny E Curtis, Craft, Virginia. Schr Wen Henry, Van Name, Virginia. Schr Menney, Van Name, Virginia. Schr Garrett P Wright, Cropper, Virginia. Schr Minanda, Hardy, Virginia for Now Haven. Schr Bunell, Bulmell, Baltimore for Bridgeport. Schr Wm A Crocker, Baxter, Philadelphia for Boston.

Passed Through Hell Gate.

ROUND SOUTH. Schr Barie Address of Gorham & Whilams vessel of days, with lumber to Gorham & Whilams vessel of Frye & Co.
Schr M E Bartlett, Chase, New Haven for New York.
Schr Thos Winants, Crawford, New Haven for Norfolk.
Schr Sarah M Simmons, Gandy, New Haven for Ealth-

ore. Schr Phebe Elizabeth, Hill, New Haven for Elizabethport.

BOUND EAST. Bark Ella, Lewis, New York for Portland. Schr Emeline Haight, Avery, Newcastle, Del, fer Ports

Schr Emeine Haignt, Avery, Rewcasae, 100, nouth.
Schr Sea Nymph, Connolly, Port Johnson for Providence, Schr Geo Twibill, Herring, Port Johnson for New Haven, Schr Silver Bell, Bayley, Port Johnson for Boston, Schr Lucy & Cogawell, Sweet, Port Johnson for Boston, Schr Alice Oakes, Marson, Port Johnson for Boston, Schr Ann Elizabeth, Geichell, Port Johnson for Boston, Schr Ann Jane, Forcham, Elizabethport for New Haven, Schr Hattie M Howes, Howes, Elizabethport for Providence. ence. Schr Angler, Bessee, Hoboken for Wareham, Schr Franklin D Nelson, Keene, New York for New

on. Schr Exeter, Pendleton, New York for Boston.

BELOW. Schr Condova, from Savannah (by pilot boat Ezra Nye,

SAILED. Ship Cynric, for London; bark Ida, do; brig Suwance, New Orleans.

Wind at sunset NW. Shipping Notes.

extensive submarine ledge of rocks on either side of Gover-nor's Island known as Diamond Reef, which constitutes a most formidable and dangerous obstruction to the naviga-tion of the East river at low tide, and even under the most moval. It is a task of great magnitude, but it is being con-ducted under such excellent supervision, and was only started upon after many experiments, so that those acquainted with the claborate machinery in position and the mode of its working are bold to proclaim that in time complete success will attend the effort. The general government and the State authorities have at intervals made various surveys and proposed many plans to accomplish the removal of the reef, but nothing really definite was done until the inauguration of the present plan of attack. Gen John Newton, at the head of the United States Engineer corps, in charge of our harbor improvements, had long felt very anxious to effect a needed remedy in this particular, and thus experimented on a large number of plans. At last several experiments were tried with a number of explosive materials at the Hallett's Point Reef excavation, to determine which was the best adapted for aubmarine and other blasting purposes. It was determined by the result that nitro-glycerine, used in a new and improved form, was the most efficacious, besides being the most economical substance discovered. It was then resolved to test the matter on an extensive scale, and arrange ments were made to operate on Diamond Reef. To do thi many and seemingly almost insurmountable obstacles were in the way, but Gen Newton has overcome them, setting aside all the difficulties that have hitherto been in the way of submarine rock-drilling from a floating surface above The odd-l oking, square, box-like structure seen off Gover nor's Island by all passengers on the lower ferries is the result of Gen Newton's inventive genius. To use a coffer-dam or caisson, the only available method previously known, was made impossible on account of the tides, which would wreck any, hing of that nature placed there. The mudwould wreck any, hing of that nature placed there. The muddy water prevented the operations of divers, and all other experiments falled completely. Finally the present machine was invented, and it is absolutely new in every respect, settling in its weil-tried work many points that before were open to criticism. It can be seen about a quarter of a mile from the Battery, where it has been moored some six weeks. It is a large soow, 140 feet long by 50 feet wide, strongly built and provided with overhanging guards, steam machinery, &c. There are four patent capstans, four anchors of large size, heavy chain cables and huge hawsers,

chors of large size, heavy chain cables and huge hawsers

which maintain it in the exact position required on the reef. In the centre of this scow is an iron dome, 3s feet in diame-

ter and weighing 70 tons. This is sunk in the water, resting

upon legs, which are movable and adjusted by the diver, so that it stands evenly on the rock, sulting the tide and motion

of the scow. When sunk the surface water boils with an

moves quite steadily. Over the well-hole of the dome are

two movable bridges, which enable it to be raised or low ered as desired by four large derricks at either end of the

scow. In constructing this machine it was first apparent

that something must be made that would work or stand in any current, however strong. This led to the invention of the dome, after much experimenting, and it has fully realized the expectations of Gen Newton. Next there was required a foundation for this, that it could be properly worked, which led to the building of the scow, and as the position in which it was to be anchored was one of the most exposed in the harbor, lying in the track of thousands of steam vessels, both large and small, it was necessary that it should be of such strength that no ordinary collision could njure it. Since it has been in its place many stupid pilots or captains have caused their vessels to collide with it; but it spleasant to record that they have invariably got the worst of the bargain, and nothing can run it down but a first class steamshlp, and then it would have to be struck directly annichips. After the scow was so constructed that it could resist all collisions the next problem was the working of the dome, which was accomplianed by the bridges and derricks. Then to hold the scow in position was the next difficulty, and that was satisfactorily adjusted as above explained. In position on the scow are steam drills, which are fastened at desired noints where the rock is to be pierced. Attached to these are pairs of jaws, sinker bars and cable clutches, similar to those in use at the oil regions. Each drill has an engine. This portion of the work presented difficulties, as did not the others. There was the piscing of the drilling engines on iar to those in use at the oil regions. Each drill has an engine. This portion of the work presented difficulties, as did the others. There was the placing of the drilling engines on dack, that they might work whatever the nature of the weather, and so successfully has this problem been solved that the drilling has continued during all the late heavy northwest blow, and at times so severe were these galos that the guards of Gen Newton's steamboat rolled under water while alongside or near the soow. There were also overcome the difficulties of working the engines evenly in the rise and fall of the tides, the turning of the drill. The machine, as it stands, is a rare specimen of inventive still and account call enterwenent; but, after all, the variation being done is but little more than experimenting. There is a vast deal to be done before Diamond Reef is removed; for, he it remembered, it possesses an area of over 3000 square feet. There were but three drills in use for the first few days, but others have been added, and nine are now in operation. Divers have been added, and nine are now in operation. Divers descend and direct the motion of the piercer, and the natu-ral agitation of the water Keeps the hole clear of fragments. Until the see shall drive them from their position the work will go on, to be commenced again at the first opportunity in early suring. Meanwhite Gen Newton will have built a iarger machine than the one now in position, and all the essential details of its construction will be the same as the present, yet it will contain many little improvements suggested by the experience already sone through with. The work will then begin in camest, with a fair hope of a speedy and favorable ending. There has already been one explosion of the little statement of the same of sion of the nitro-glycerine charges, of about 140 pounds. They were inserted by a two-ply India-rubber pipe, two and They were inserted by a two-ply India-rubber pipe, two and a half inches in diameter and seven feet long. This explosion broke up a square of rock from 30 to 35 feet, while it cracked, seamed and raised that about it. There will shortly be another explosion of an increased amount of nitro-glyce-rine. The charges will be of 30 pounds each—279 pounds altogether—and enveloped as before. The nine holes are each 11 feet 4 inches in diameter, and the blast is tightly secured, but not tamped. These charges will be exploded by the electric spark. One thousand feet of copper wire, hearily coated with gutta percha, will lead from a powerful Leyden jar battery to the charges, the end of each wire connecting with a fulminating pod or cap, which discharges the Leyden jar battery to the charges, the end of each wire connecting with a fulminating pod or cap, which discharges the
blast. It is said the ignition will be communicated from a
distance of \$50 feet, and will be simultaneous in each wire.
The whole reef will be gone over with before the work of
dredging is commenced, and until the latter is in progress
the story cannot be propery told; but there is no doubt of
the present working being a complete success, so much so
that what it has heretofore cost the general government \$50
per cubic yard to accomplish, Gen Newton, with the new
machine and explosive material, will do for \$20 per cubic
yard. This is a bold statement, but, nevertheless, it is true,
and it is believed the time has arrived that the blasting and
removing of rock under water has been divested of all its removing of rock under water has been divested of all its chicanery—that is, where there is a reasonable amount of work to do and a moderate wave only to contend with, alike to or even worse than that in our harbor during the stormest days. Hitherto many attempts have been made to blast rocks in this vicinity that proved an impediment to naviga-tion, but it has been fatile, as the tops only were taxen off. Not so with the work at Diamond Reef. It is to be broken up and removed, and when, in the spring, the new and traproved dredger shall have commenced its work, it is to be hoped that Gen Newton's most sanguine expectations will be realized, and that dangerous ledge of rock no longer exist as an obstruction to the barbor of New York. This accomplished, he will have earned the lasting gratitude of

STRAMSHIP ARIES, from Boston for Philadelphia, which went ashore on Hereford Bar 23d Inst, was got off on the 25th by the Coast Wrecking Company's steamer Relief, and proceeded to Philadelphia.

20th by the Coast Wrecking Company's steamer Relief, and proceeded to Philadelphia.

Buto Sharon (Br), from New York for Constantinople, was run into by an unknown vessel on the night of the list of December, 70 miles E SE of Sandy Hook. The capitain and crew were saved by the schooner Charles F Heyer from Portland, which arrived at Savannah to-day (35th). The brig sunk with her decks under water and was left in that tondition.

BRIG ANNA D TORRY, from Pensacola for Boston, was at

SLOOP TEMPERANCE, Manes, from Elizabethport for New Haven, while passing through Hell Gate AM 25th inst with a very light wind, struck on Ring Rock and drifted into Pot Cove, was towed into Halle.t's Cove and beached, leaking badly.

CAPE MAY, Dec 25-The steamer Erie, from Philadelphia for Beston, is ashore on Hereford Bar. LONDON, Dec 25.—The bark Panther was spoken on the 17th inst, and reported loss of deckload and her captain disabled.
Ship Norval, of Greenock, from Montreal, is ashore in
Oban Bay, Scotland, and is breaking up.
Ship Balife, from Quebes for Operio, is ashore at Matha-

discellaneous The ship yards at Port Jefferson have eight vessels on ways, ranging from 500 to 800 tons each.

ways, ranging from 500 to 807 tons cach.

**Foreign Ports.*

Cehu, Nov 9—In port bark Chasca, Crockett, for Boston (before reported for New York).

QUERNSTOWN, Dec 24—Arrived, steamship City of Baltimore (87), Delamotts. New York (Dec 13) via H atifax (15th) for Liverpool (can proceeded).

American Ports.

ALEXANDRIA, Dec 23.—Sailed, schr A Bartlett, Provi-ALEXANDRIA, Dec 23—Salied, scar A Barlett, Froydence.

BOSTON, Dec 24, AM—Arrived, schra T J Trafton, Talpey,
and J Paine, Stevens, Phina-leiphia; Flight, Growelf, Roboken, Signal for I ship and 2 brigs.

Cienrei—Steamships Wm Lawrence, Hallett, Baltimore
via Norfolk; Glaucua, Walden, New York; bark Duiveland
(Br), Graves, Port Louis (isle of France); brig Mariba, Oasally, Mobile; schr A E Nickerson, Nickerson, Philadelphia,
28th—Arrived, steamship Wm Lawrence, Hallett, Baltimore; ship Eurine Gr., Owens, Liverpool; bark Chiolide,
Clenfnegos.

Below, at anchor in Provincetown barbor, snip Wm Wood,
bury, Herriman, Calculta; bark Fredonia (ar., BarkerFayal; brig Anna D Torry, Pensacola; sohr C C Bearse,
Port au Spain.

Fayal; brig Anna D Torry, Pensacola; schr C G Bearse, Port au Spain.

BRIDGEFORT, Dec 24—Arrived, schrs Belle, Simpson, Hoboken; E Flower, do.

Sailed—Schrs Little David, Blair, Breoklyn; Geo F Brown, Gedney, Elizabethorit; Motto, Stafford, New London.

CHARLESTON, Dec 25—Arrived, steamer South Carolina, from New York.

Sailed—Steamships Manhattan, for New York; J W Everman, Philadelphia; bark Evanel Randall, Liverpool; schrs W L Burroutha, Gork and a market; J M Bromell, Fernadina; Jesse Wilson, Georgetown, De; J G Smith, Savannah; Jhon Slusman, Wilmongton, NC.

KDGARTOWN, Dec 21, AM—Sailed, schr Laura Webb, for Baltimore.

NORFOLK, Dec 22—Arrived, schrs W G Tuff, Skidmore

do.

Nailed—Schre Pantheon, and Success, for New York.

PHILA DELPHIA. Dec 24. AM—Arrived, schre Lottie,
Taylor, Hoston: E G Irwin, Johnson, Providence.

SAN FRANCISCO. Dec 24—Salied, ship Ada.aide Baker-

or orders.
Chared—Bark Valentina (Sp), Arribalzaga, Liverpool; rig Morning Star, Grozier, Bremen.
24th—Arrived, steamship Sweden, from Glasgow.
Cleared—Steamships Huntsville, and San Jacinto, for New York; Tonawanda, for Philadelphia; barks Mayne Reid, Barcelona; Crescencia (Sp). Algerin, do; sebrs W Fonshing, Cuba; Kenduskeag, Brunswick; Robert Caldwell, battle.

Satilla.

25th—Arrived, steamship Saragossa, from Baltimore; schr Chas F Heyer, Portland.

WILMINGTON, NC, Dec 22—Arrived, brig Sussex (Br), Beck, Matanzas Cleared Schrs John Ferris, Field, New York; G B Me-Farland, McFarland, Boston; Jas Young, Wilson, Havans.

MISCELLANEOUS.

AT COST.

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